

FORM NO. 51-AAA
FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INTELLOFAX 20

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 19 March 1952

SUBJECT 1. Tuberculosis Prevalent in North Korean Government
2. Shortage of Medical Supplies

NO. OF PAGES 1

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The North Korean government figures state that approximately 60 (?) percent of the North Korean official workers and party organizers are suffering from tuberculosis from overwork and poor diet, with many in a critical stage. A government edict demands a 12-hour day, and party members are obliged to attend nightly meetings. The underground offices, theaters, and dugouts are filthy.

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2. Typhus and typhoid serums hold the highest priority on the import list. [redacted] have spread typhoid germs in populated North Korean centers. North Korea seriously needs medical supplies. Soviets have granted (sic) North Koreans permission to trade through previously established smuggling routes.

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3. [redacted] medical supplies were lacking among the North Korean units in Tanch'on (128-54, 40-27) (DV-9277) and Songjin (129-12, 40-40) (EA-1701) area. Some regimental and battalion headquarters had penicillin but used it only when important officers in danger were dying. In one case mercurochrome was applied to a civilian who was wounded [redacted]

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Comment. Presumably government.

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Class. Changed To:	TS S (C)
Auth:	HR 10-2
Date:	11/09/72

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